United Nations DP/CCF/DRK/1/EXTENSION 1

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.: General
20 July 2000

Original: English

Third regular session 2000
25-29 September 2000, New York
Item 9 of the provisional agenda
Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension:
1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, covering the period January 1997 to December 1999, was approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session in 1997. During this period, the country has been coping with the impact of a series of natural disasters on agricultural and industrial production. Development assistance has largely concentrated on recovery and rehabilitation. The request for an extension has been made in order to complete the strategy and initiatives set out in the first CCF document. The new CCF will take into account recent developments, including the outcome of the Korean Summit, the second thematic round table meeting on agricultural recovery and environmental protection held in June 2000, and the findings and recommendations of the country review held in July 2000. The programmes and projects under the current CCF have been extended beyond December 1999 in line with the Administrator's decision to extend the target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) allocations approved for the period January 1997 to December 1999, and through December 2000.

2. The first CCF has directed assistance towards sustainable human development objectives, taking into account the centralized nature of the Government and the centrally planned economy, and on the need to overcome the consequences of natural disasters and to restore food security and industrial productivity. It focuses specifically on three objectives: (a) supporting the national effort to restore food security and sustainability in agriculture; (b) buttressing national efforts aimed at developing export capacity; and (c) building capacity for managing natural resources and preserving the environment. Significant progress has been made in assisting the Government to rehabilitate damaged arable land and to rebuild

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damaged irrigation systems and agriculture infrastructure. Support for the International Economic Cooperation Programme has helped the country to diversify its international commercial contacts and to raise its export potential. The country has also benefited from UNDP assistance in environment and natural-resource management. National execution is the predominant modality for programme implementation, for which national capacity is being built.

3. The CCF extension provides sufficient time for a comprehensive review of the CCF, so that the lessons learned and results achieved can be fully taken into consideration in the preparation of the next CCF. It also allows for the harmonization of programming cycles with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The next CCF is to be submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in 2001.

4. The UNDP Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first country cooperation framework for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a period of one year, from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000.